

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting the labor movement, and the industrial, legislative and judicial process of law, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

WHOLE NO. 879.

# INUNCTION DEFENDERS RESORT TO ANCIENT TRICK

"Law and Labor," published by the League for Industrial Rights, successor of the Anti-Boycott Association, is in a frenzy over the Shipstead anti-injunction bill.

The editor shrieks that the measure redefines property "for the benefit of a particular class."

This publication wants the status quo undisturbed. To win its point it resorts to every time-worn trick that has confused men who seek facts on the labor injunction issue.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution declares that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

When the amendment was passed nothing was property unless it was tangible and transferable.

Since then anti-union employers and

their attorneys have convinced courts and, to a large extent, laymen, that property, includes speculative expectations, such as good will, and that to carry on business is a property right, instead of a privilege carried on under regulation of law.

These courts now hold that what was formerly considered a personal right, or privilege, regulated by law, is a property right, which carries with it the right to sufficient labor power, used under conditions as the employer elects, as will make his business profitable.

This is a new interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment that has been applied in the interest of a class.

When it is sought to restore the true definition of property, anti-union employers and their editorial allies fear passion to tatters and accuse workers

of urging legislation "for the benefit of a particular class."

The frenzy of "Law and Labor" is shown by this attempt to beloud the issues.

"Under a government of laws one man's property is as much entitled to be protected as another's, and the fact that in one case the property may be tangible and transferable and in another case intangible and non-transferable, should not be made the basis for defeating the latter's rights."

Note how cunningly the editor confuses government by law and government by equity. He makes no distinction between the two, though they are as opposite as the poles.

Government by law rests on statutory enactment and cannot be changed at will to law to which courts usually adhere for fear of being reversed on appeal.

In equity a judge is unhampered by law, rule or precedent. He is guided by

his conscience. His decision is final. He is lawmaker, judge and executioner.

Long ago some described equity as "a rogish thing that no one can measure or define."

The Shipstead bill would overthrow this system that is undermining government by law. It would destroy the favored status of anti-union employers whose hands of harmony with certain judges are evident. These judges use their discretion to serve their friends.

"Law and Labor" shows the purpose of the Shipstead bill, but attempts the ancient trick of confusing government by law with personal government by equity.

Organized labor will expose this trick. Mass meetings in every section of the country will explain this law that threatens government by popular rule.

## Lawmakers Favor Federal Probe; Coal Strike Zone Breeds Anarchy

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 11.—"Breeding ground for bolshevism" and "brezen brutality" were indictments against the Pennsylvania strike zone by the Governor of New York, following independent investigations in the bituminous coal fields.

Both lawmakers insisted that the investigation resolution, presented by Senator John C. Calhoun, should be passed by the Senate as quickly as possible.

The Senate should pass every other matter and make the investigation resolution the first order of business on the resolution "which involves the rights of human beings and therefore should have first consideration," said Mr. Wheeler.

"The hillside of Pennsylvania are the most fertile breeding ground for bolshevism and anarchy I have ever seen, and I have seen a great deal of the suffering among the people here."

"I was amazed to find that Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and his associates of Pittsburgh, executives of the coal companies and kindred industries, have permitted such suffering to develop."

Congressman La Guardia was equally vigorous in his protests. "The brutality of mine owners' private police and their disregard of law is a shame," he said. "Why this morning, 30 strikers were arrested by coal and iron police, kidnapped and taken to a city 40 miles away and held incommunicado from their families, from constituents grounds for a congressional investigation of the outrageousness of these so-called police is amazing. In addition to this the unlawful restriction of strikes and the right here from the strikers, is sufficient ground to inquire if a constitutional right is there. The poor, unhappy strikers are not only exploited, but they are being debauched and deprived by employers."

Mr. La Guardia said strikers are armed with shotguns and are then treated with beating whips.

## WORKERS SEEK RELIEF THRU REGULAR UNION

Fall River, Mass., Feb. 11.—Textile workers who are losing the United Textile Workers' Union, a unit of the A. F. of L.

These workers hold membership in an organization not recognized by organized labor, and have secured every trade union effort to secure recognition.

Wage reductions, which are accepted by the independents, has disgusted these workers. As a result in these cases, they now flock into the regular union.

The United Textile Workers have expended thousands of dollars in energy that can not be computed in numerous organization campaigns. Many of these efforts have been fruitless. Now, when wage cuts are pending in these unions, a great rush is made for enrollment blanks.

This is the reason why the Lawrence and other textile centers, where so-called radicals point to confusion and anarchy, say: "Why don't you United Textile Workers do something?"

These so-called radicals are often in the secret employ of the manufacturers, and are creating the very conditions they profess to deplore.

## BANKS AID EMPLOYERS IN ANTI-UNION DRIVE

New York, Feb. 11.—Powerful banking interests are at work to find a way to destroy trade unionism, said John P. Ryan, president of the Central Trades and Labor Council, in a call for a mass meeting to discuss the labor injunction and "yellow dog" laws.

"We make this charge advisedly," said Mr. Ryan. "Through cooperation with anti-union associations, certain large financial interests are offering credit and other financial assistance to employers who will fight unions with the tactics provided by the National Association of Manufacturers. The fight of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, the Amalgamated Street Car Men's Union and the A. F. of L. is part of the strategy."

## MUSSOLINI'S ORDER CONFUSES FASCISTS

New York, Feb. 11.—Fascists in the United States are at a loss to find explanation for Mussolini's latest order that Italian emigrants abroad be represented by the Italian consul and obey his instructions and directives.

Local Fascist leaders, who loudly proclaim their allegiance to the Italian government, are in an embarrassing position when asked how they can serve Mussolini and the country of the Benito will develop

## "SLOW-DOWN" POLICY FAVORED

An advisory committee to the Federal Oil Conservation Board recommends federal legislation that will permit oil producers to curtail output "in times of overproduction."

The advisory committee includes representatives of the government, the American Bar Association and oil producers.

The committee said that if wage workers asked for a strike to secure a five-day week and higher wages, the ground that the output of our industrial machine is in excess of consumption?

## OPIUM FOR WORKERS

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation announces that last year 37,142 employees bought 7,813 shares of its preferred stock.

This is less than two shares for these employees, who include managers, superintendents and foremen, whose wage is called "salary." It would be interesting to know the number of shares bought by employees who are popularly known as "wage earners."

The preferred stock will be sold this year at a share, and will defer 7 per cent, or less than 6 per cent per \$100.

Dividends on this stock are paid only after dividends on a bond.

The bonds are a mortgage on the corporation's stock. The plant, the preferred stock, and the directors can postpone payment of preferred stock dividends whenever they believe business conditions warrant such action.

The corporation's stock is sold to employees in five years. He will receive an additional \$15 on each share of his stock. This means \$30 on two shares if for five years he is satisfied with low wages and does not question the manager's authority.

It is a test of one's patience to read statements that this stock-ownership scheme has any value in establishing better relations between employer and employee.

The true name for this system is "opium for workers."

## COURT REJECTS PLAN TO ORDER STRIKE END PAINTERS' UNION WINS SUIT ON COUNSEL FEES

Minneapolis, Feb. 11.—The Citizens' Alliance in its fight to have the upholsterers' strike against the Brooks firm of Minneapolis, Minn., rejected by the court.

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## LABOR WILL OPPOSE CAR FARE INCREASE

New York, Feb. 11.—Organized labor will oppose a proposed fare increase for the Interborough Rapid Transit Company in its effort to raise car fares from 5 cents to 7 cents.

This corporation is attempting to raise an injunction to protect its company "union" and "yellow dog" and intimates that wage increases are possible in the future.

President Green announced the corporation's plan to raise fares.

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## TO AID UNEMPLOYED FAVOR BOULDER DAM; MAY UNRAVEL SNAIL

Washington, Feb. 11.—At a hearing on the Willis-Madden bill before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, Senator Norris of Nebraska challenged the sincerity of those who claim that the disposition of the Willis-Madden bill will assure cheap fertilizers to farmers.

Senator Norris then turned to the question of the Willis-Madden bill, assuming that they are in earnest and that your Farm Bureau Federation's principal object, now in peace time, is to get a manure fertilizer for the farmer, and that the American Cyanamid Company is the only one who can supply it.

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## PITTSBURGH CITIZENS EXTEND MINERS' RELIEF

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 11.—Increased suffering of miners and their dependents has aroused the people of this city. Churchmen of all denominations have joined with organized labor in relieving distress, and an organization of bankers, business and professional men has been formed for the same purpose.

Citizens addressing the organization at a meeting said that the families of the miners are suffering because of lack of food and warm clothing.

Children have joined the relief drive and are carrying potatoes to the miners.

These are turned over to relief agencies for distribution in mining villages. Relief funds are daily boosted by actors and actresses who give part of their earnings to the fund.

The proceeds being used for the purchase of food and clothing for the families of union miners who are on a ten-month strike against a wage increase based on the non-union scale of West Virginia and Kentucky.

## TRUCKING BILL JOKER EXPOSED BY TEAMSTERS

Indianapolis, Feb. 11.—Daniel J. Tobin, president International Brotherhood of Teamsters, warned members of the House of Representatives that pending in Congress that would bring all trucking from State to State under control of Interstate Commerce Commission.

Mr. Tobin exposes the Joker in the measure, which would authorize the Interstate Commerce Commission to regulate trucking, to consider "the effect of such tariff and rates upon other transportation agencies, if any, and as far as possible avoid unreasonable competition with existing services."

"Apparently," said Mr. Tobin, "the bill is for the protection of railroads and street railway companies, and is not for the benefit of the trucking industry."

## GOVERNMENT'S BAN PUT ON SOVIET BONDS

Washington, Feb. 11.—The State Department has indicated disapproval of the purchase of a \$300,000 bond issue by the Soviet government.

Objection was made by the New York Life Insurance Company and other concerns that have been the Communist.

The insurance company bought \$200,000 railroad bonds issued by the Soviet government. This money was to be used for the construction of a railroad in the Soviet Union.

When the Communists secured control of Russia in 1917 they repudiated this pledge and the company "holds the bag."

## FAVOR CHILD LABOR BILL

Washington, Feb. 11.—A subcommittee of the House District Committee has reported a bill to amend the Child Labor Act of 1914.

The bill would apply to the District of Columbia. Amendments were made after objection to the original bill by telegraph companies and newspaper publishers.

## Court Edicts Hold Labor To Task; Green Explains Vicious Process

New York, Feb. 11.—The anti-labor injunction campaign was opened in this city by President Green, who addressed a mass meeting of more than 2,000 people at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

He declared that labor must fight court edicts that would hold labor to task.

Explaining why organized labor indorsed the Shipstead anti-injunction bill, Mr. Green said:

"We believe the injunction is sometimes necessary. It is justly used in the protection of property. No one wants to tamper with the inviolable property destroyed. We contend for fair, honest and impartial administration of the law. We ask that labor receive the same recognition."

## LABOR OPENS WAR ON INUNCTION; NATION-WIDE AGITATION TO START

Washington, Feb. 11.—Defiance of equity judges and lawmakers who permit one-man government, featured a trade union conference at A. F. of L. headquarters.

National and international unions and the railroad brotherhoods responded to the call that was issued by the A. F. of L. executive council.

Sentiment of the gathering was that no two lawyers are agreed on a remedy and that organized labor must strike at the root of the injunction evil by urging Congress to re-establish the original jurisdiction of equity judges by limiting their power to protecting tangible and transferable property.

Trade unionists in every section of the country will be urged to call mass meetings that to the question may be explained.

Discussion at the conference revealed an increasing understanding of equity methods and history by trade unionists. This, together with a confidence in the cause, and a knowledge of the purpose of opponents, inspired the conference, and energized labor's challenge that the fight will be carried on to the political field. Legislation to take labor from under the power of equity judges will also be urged.

The discussion was led by President Green, Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Vice President Woll, Secretary of the Metal Trades Department and President Furth of the International Seamen's Union.

The conference arranged to attend in a State hearing on the Shipstead bill.

## RAILWAY CLERKS' WAGE SLOW LIVING LINE

St. Paul, Feb. 11.—Railway clerks employed on the Great Northern system are paid less than a living wage. The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, at an arbitration hearing in this city.

The largest single group of the 4,000 employees who will be affected by the decision are paid between \$3.75 and \$4.25 a day.

Mr. O'Brien, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, said that the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimate of living costs in Minneapolis and St. Paul is \$4.70 a day.

He said that \$4 daily rate is not the lowest wage of the Great Northern for this class of labor.

Employees receive less than \$3.75, making the difference between the cost of living and the wage \$1.45 a day.

"In considering further the claims of these workers to increased compensation," said Mr. O'Brien, "during recent years they have materially increased their cost of living, and are steadily doing more work for less pay per unit."

The Brotherhood is fighting for a wage increase of 25 per cent.

Mr. O'Brien said that the railway labor generally, proof conclusively that the workers have been their share in the promotion of railway efficiency.

## SILK MILL GIRLS PAID PAUPER WAGE

New York, Feb. 11.—"How can girls maintain themselves on a wage of \$1.25 a week?" asked Thomas P. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers, in discussing work conditions in Eastern silk mills.

If the American people, and women in particular could see conditions under which children and young girls are working in these mills, they would be shocked.

McMahon, who would reclaim with one voice against the abominable conditions in the silk mills.

TRUE HARBES' LICENSE

St. Louis, Feb. 11.—Journeymen barbers and employers are united in support of a bill introduced in the Missouri legislature that will assure sanitary barber shops in their.

## CHILDREN'S MAY DAY PROPOSED IN CONGRESS

Washington, Feb. 11.—Congressman Greenwood has introduced a joint resolution which would designate May 1 as Child Day.

"The quality of the adult citizenry depends upon the opportunities for wholesome development provided in childhood. In the United States, the child is not given the opportunity for wholesome development. It is essential that the child be given the opportunity for wholesome development."

If the resolution is enacted into law, the day would be observed in government buildings and the people will be required to observe the day.

It is in order to awaken necessity for child labor reform.

of the physical and the mental health of our children."

## SOUTHERN UNIONISTS COMBAT "YELLOW DOG"

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 11.—The Piedmont Organizing Council of North Carolina has announced that it will send a trade union missionary force in the South.

The force will be composed of a group of trade unionists from every section of North Carolina. The first meeting will be held in Greensboro, N. C., last December. The second meeting will be held in Winston-Salem, N. C., last month.

The council is conducting an educational campaign against the "yellow dog." This alleged contract is being signed by many of the Southern railway manufacturers, who have recently come into the South.

MANY OUT-OF-WORKS

Old-time workers included Dr. Worth M. Tippy of the Federal Council of Churches, Dr. John H. Ryan of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and several trade unionists.